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HALIFAX • MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009

Entertainment

Oscar hopefuls coming to theatres

pg 20





Sports pg 17

Cole Harbour's Grant has a knockout performance at UFC 107

MacKay set to announce new funding

Peter MacKay is making a funding announcement in Halifax this morning.

The Minister of Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway will be joined by Halifax Regional Municipality Mayor Peter Kelly for a 10 a.m. news conference scheduled for inside the Public Gardens at Horticultural Hall, more commonly known as the canteen.

A federal government press release indicates the announcement is in regards to "investment in enhancing recreational infrastructure in Halifax Regional Municipality."

METRO HALIFAX

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
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World pg 11



Danes arrest protesters

On the web
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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

A forensic identification officer looks at a bullet hole on a side-door window of a house in Halifax's west end yesterday afternoon. A 44-year-old man suffering from multiple wounds was found outside the home on Abbott Drive late Saturday night. The man — identified as Timothy John Kelly — was pronounced dead at the hospital. Police are treating the incident as a homicide.

Homicide in Halifax

No witnesses as man found on ground in front of home

ALY THOMPSON
for Metro Halifax

The death of a 44-year-old man found lying on the ground partially clad in a Halifax neighbourhood over the weekend is being treated as a homicide

Halifax Regional Police were called to 7051 Abbott St. near the Halifax Shopping Centre shortly after 10 p.m. on Saturday. Police say Timothy John Kelly was suffering from multiple wounds, and was found lying on the ground, reportedly on the sidewalk in front of the home. He was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

What appears to be a bullet hole can be seen through the side door of the festively decorated home yesterday, but it isn't known how it relates to the incident, police say.

"We have no witness to the incident right now, so we can't confirm that this is new damage and is related to the incident," said police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

Spots of what looks like blood could also be seen leading towards the home.

Palmeter said an autopsy will be conducted to confirm the cause of death, but investigators are treating it as a murder.

"At this time we have no idea the motive behind the incident," he said, adding there are no suspects.

Nathan Banks, who lives a few houses down from where Kelly was found, said he didn't know the murdered man, but often saw him outside doing lawn work.

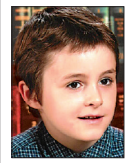
"It's a really sad thing to happen in the community," Banks said on his front doorstep. "This is a really nice neighborhood and it is unusual for this to happen."

Another neighbour, who asked not to be named, said cops had visited the residence where the man was found during the summer.

Delorey to be buried today

TRAGEDY A seven-year-old Cape Breton boy whose tragic ordeal touched the hearts of many Canadians will be buried today.

James Delorey captured national attention when he followed his dog, Chance, into a wooded area near his South Bar home near Sydney last weekend.



James Delorey

He was found after a two-day search. Delorey was not wearing winter clothes and was found huddled in a thick spruce stand. In addition, Delorey was autistic and non-communicative.

The dog returned home last Monday — two days after the pair wandered out and searchers from Halifax search and rescue were able to trace his prints to near where Delorey was eventually found. He was then airlifted to the IWK Health Centre in Halifax where he died several hours later due to severe hypothermia.

His funeral is today at 2 p.m. at Holy Redeemer Church in Whitney Pier.

CAPE BRETON POST

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SCANLIFE

Local



Police say texting contributed to crash

Halifax Regional Police say a 22-year-old woman who was texting while driving struck a tree with her vehicle landing on its roof early Saturday morning. Police say the incident happened at Elwin Crescent in Dartmouth and a contributing factor to the crash was the woman was texting while in operation of the vehicle. Police say the woman suffered no injuries. METRO HALIFAX



10 escape apartment blaze in Truro

INVESTIGATION Ten people were chased out into the cold Saturday night when flames raced through a six-unit apartment complex in Truro.

The tenants fled the large Victorian-style building in sub-zero temperatures and gusting winds.

One person was treated for smoke inhalation.

Red Cross officials arranged emergency shelter for eight tenants while two others were staying with family or friends.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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What's online today.

Video Bad news from European economies have market watchers wary this week at **metronews.ca/canada**

Immigration Guidy Mamann, below, celebrates a victory for live-in caregivers after Ottawa unveils changes to the nanny program at **metronews.ca/immigration**



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Saturday, Dec. 12
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These results are not official.

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HRP officer charged with extortion

More charges likely: Dep. chief

MONIQUE MUISE
monique.muise@metronews.ca

Halifax Regional Police found themselves investigating one of their own over the weekend after an officer was accused of extorting money from a member of the public.

Police say 29-year-old Const. Jeffrey Buchanan was arrested while on duty at headquarters early Saturday morning, and was charged yesterday with extortion and breach of trust.

According to Deputy Chief Chris McNeil, Buchanan came into contact with someone during the course of his duties on Thursday afternoon, and allegedly extorted an undisclosed amount of money from that person.

"Two frontline officers came into some information which led them to believe that (Buchanan) had been involved in some sort of criminal misconduct," McNeil told reporters yesterday at HRP headquarters. "They then brought that forward to their superiors ... and it required action immediately. This has been ongoing since late Thursday evening pretty much around the clock."

McNeil would not get into specifics of where or how the incident took place, but did say additional charges are expected in what he admitted is a "complex" case.



"These are very serious charges. The public expects us to be beyond reproach, and holds police officers in great public trust."
Deputy Chief Chris McNeil

Buchanan, a four-and-a-half year veteran of the Halifax police force, has not worked in any other jurisdictions and has a clean record, said McNeil. He has been suspended from his duties, but is still eligible to receive pay for at least 60 days.

"These are very serious charges," McNeil said. "The public expects us to be beyond reproach, and holds police officers in great public trust. When you know these people, and these things happen, you're often shocked."

Buchanan has been released on bail, and is scheduled to appear in Halifax Provincial Court on Jan. 26.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

The HRM's winter parking ban started this morning at 1 a.m. Motorists will have to find off-street parking between 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. or face a $50 fine.

Winter parking ban in effect

If you parked your car on the street last night in the Halifax Regional Municipality, you may have awoken to an unpleasant surprise pinned to your windshield this morning.

The winter parking ban officially came into effect at 12:01 a.m. in the municipality's urban core — which includes Halifax, Timberlea, Bedford, Dartmouth, Sackville, Cole Harbour, Fall River, Beaver Bank, Westphal and Eastern Passage.

Anyone parking on the street between 1 and 7 a.m. can be issued a ticket for $50. If the fine isn't paid within 60 days, it goes up to $82.96.

In the event of a major snowstorm, the municipality can ticket or tow any vehicle that interferes with snow-clearing operations, regardless of time or date.

Residents are being asked to allow 12 hours after the end of the snowfall for crews to plow main roads and bus routes, and 24 hours for residential and rural streets.

MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

Feds give $4.2M for First Nations housing, centre

Ottawa is contributing $4.2 million toward improved housing in First Nations communities in Nova Scotia and to creating a proposed Mi'kmaq cultural centre and trail network in the centre of the province.

About $3.8-million in federal funds will help build new housing, repair and improve existing non-profit housing, and complement housing programs offered by CMHC over the next two years.

The housing agency says it will retrofit 229 housing units on First Nation communities, and the funding will also subsidize 12 new housing units in seven communities.

In addition, the federal government announced its stimulus funding will provide $400,000 for the planning of a native cultural centre and trail in Debert, with Nova Scotia's government kicking in $137,000.

The centre will showcase Mi'kmaq history and culture, and is billed as being focused around the oldest dated archaeological site in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Industrial accident victim ID'd

A New Brunswick man has been identified as the victim of an industrial accident in Nova Scotia on Thursday. Kirby Beers, 33, of Chipman died when a modular home his company was moving fell on him. The accident took place on a lot adjacent to Highway 102 near Truro. METRO HALIFAX

Report urges HRM to bring back race-relations committee

SAFETY The Halifax Regional Municipality needs to resurrect its race-relations committee if it wants to make the city safer for minorities, says a new report to city hall.

The report, scheduled to come before council tomorrow as part of a wider debate on public safety in metro, suggests resurrecting the now-defunct committee in an effort to "demonstrate greater leadership in the public safety issues of minorities."

The committee, made up of two city councillors and several members of the public, was disbanded last year as staff launched into a major overhaul of the municipality's boards and committees.

Now it's being recommended that the group be "revitalized" and that it focus in particular on the struggles of African-Nova Scotians. METRO HALIFAX

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Dim outlook on economy

Confidence drops among Nova Scotians, survey finds

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

It looks like Nova Scotians are feeling somewhat chilly towards the provincial economy — both now and in the future.

A survey by Thinkwell Research released yesterday says less than one in three Nova Scotians (31 per cent) believe the provincial economy will get stronger over the next six months, down nine points from September.

Ten per cent of those surveyed believe it will actually get weaker, resulting in a net confidence score (stronger minus weaker) of plus-21, down eight points from September.

As for the current condition of the provincial economy, only one per cent says it's excellent and 33 per cent say it's good, down six points from September. At the other end of the spectrum, 50 per cent describe the current condition of the economy as not so good and 14 per cent say it's poor. When combined, the total is up six points from the last survey.

"Whether or not this will place a damper on holiday shopping in the province remains to be seen." Len Preeper, Thinkwell Research president

"Whether or not this will place a damper on holiday shopping in the province remains to be seen," Len Preeper, president of Thinkwell Research, said in a release.

The survey, conducted Nov. 27 to 30, saw 401 adult Nova Scotians surveyed. It carries a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points, or 19 times out of 20.

Boost in beer sales lifts NSLC's Q2 earnings

MONIQUE MUISE
monique.muise@metronews.ca



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Nova Scotians were buying a lot of beer this past summer at Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation stores — $88.5 million worth, up seven per cent over the same period last year.

RESULTS Some hot weather and a popular new flavour had Nova Scotians reaching for lots of beer this past summer — $88.5 million worth, to be exact.

The Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation says a major boost in beer sales in its second quarter led to a seven per cent increase in the company's net income for the period between July 1 and Sept. 27.

The NSLC's second-quarter results, released Friday, showed beer profits increasing by more than $6 million from the same period last year.

"New products and favourable weather in August contributed to these positive results," said NSLC president and CEO Bret Mitchell in a release.

New lime-flavoured beers from both Budweiser and Moosehead proved especially popular in 2009, said the release, and the NSLC claims the "innovative" products even attracted some customers who don't normally purchase beer.

"New products and favourable weather in August contributed to these positive results." Bret Mitchell, NSLC president, CEO

Second-quarter sales of wine, spirits and ready-to-drink cocktails were also up from last year, but the company's sales to restaurants, bars and specialty stores continued to show slower growth than the retail sector.

Wastewater-treatment facility opening in Herring Cove

SEWAGE After a year of sewage-treatment woes, officials with the municipality's Harbour Solutions Project are hoping to end 2009 on a high note with the opening of a final wastewater-treatment facility in Herring Cove.

In a release issued Friday, Halifax Water general manager Carl Yates said the facility should be up and running within a week, and residents should start seeing clearer water almost immediately.

The facility — one of three built as part of the $333-million Harbour Solutions Project — has been testing its systems with freshwater, and is now ready to start processing wastewater, said Yates.

Area Coun. Steve Adams said he plans to check out the results for himself at the municipality's annual polar bear dip Jan. 1.

"While I may not take the plunge on New Year's Day, the summer is looking good," he said.

The Halifax and Dartmouth facilities have been treating flows since early 2008, but a power outage on Jan. 14 of this year caused the Halifax facility to flood — resulting in significant damage and forcing a shutdown of operations. METRO HALIFAX

Magazine Hill to be closed for hour during scheduled detonation

TRAFFIC The Magazine Hill will be closed to traffic for about an hour today for what is described as a scheduled ordnance detonation.

A release from Maritime Forces Atlantic says that Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel at the Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot in Bedford will detonate several shells.

The RCMP, Halifax Regional Police and Military police are closing the busy stretch of road as a precaution during the detonation.

The highway will be closed in both directions from the intersection of Akerley Boulevard and Windmill Road west to where Dartmouth Road and the Bedford Bypass meet the Magazine Hill Road section of the highway. METRO HALIFAX

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Stanfield airport launches new website

The Halifax Stanfield International Airport has launched a new website. Titled www.flyhalifax.com, the website can check flight availability, compare prices on multiple sights and book flights. The new site is expected to get over three million hits annually, with flight status, flight options and parking the most popular pages. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Diocese to proceed with abuse settlement

A historic class-action settlement involving Roman Catholic priests accused of abusing young boys in Nova Scotia will proceed after clearing a final hurdle, a lawyer for the victims said Friday.

John McKiggan said the diocese of Antigonish has agreed to go ahead with the $15-million deal after passing a Dec. 4 deadline that would allow people to opt out. He said alleged victims had until that date to opt out, at which point the diocese and the man who filed the original suit could also have withdrawn from the arrangement.

But McKiggan said the diocese has decided to proceed with the settlement even though some people have informed counsel for the church that they want out. "This is a landmark case. It's a tremendously important case," McKiggan said in Halifax. "This is the first time that the Catholic Church has acknowledged its responsibility to survivors of sexual abuse."

Bishop Raymond Lahey, who is facing unrelated charges of possessing and importing child pornography, announced the proposed deal last August.

The settlement, certified by a Nova Scotia Supreme Court justice, is intended to compensate anyone who was allegedly or known to have been sexually assaulted by a priest with the Catholic Episcopal Corp. of Antigonish since Jan. 1, 1950.

The two parties could also have scrubbed the deal if more than 70 people wanted to join the claim, which would provide less money for claimants.

McKiggan said the number of claimants has exceeded that figure and he expects that will grow before the cutoff date of March 10, 2010. But he said the two parties decided to proceed, adding the case is not about money for the man who prompted the suit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brothers claim abuse

- Ron Martin filed suit after his brother left a suicide note in 2002, outlining abuse he alleged to have suffered by a Roman Catholic priest who often came over to the family home for dinner. The suicide note named Hugh Vincent MacDonald as the abuser, a revelation that Martin said "nearly destroyed" him as it brought back painful memories of his own alleged abuse by the same man.



Psychiatric exam would have kept Hyde in jail: Lawyer

INQUIRY The lawyer representing a mentally ill man who died in police custody says he didn't ask for a psychiatric evaluation of his client, Howard Hyde, because he was trying to get him released.

Speaking through his lawyer Mark Knox, Peter Planetta says he runs into people with mental health issues on a daily basis and rarely asks for an assessment because it's not a therapeutic endeavour.

He says it also means a client will spend up to 30 days in jail.

Knox says Planetta, who testified Friday at the Hyde inquiry in Halifax, was also concerned that his client would have run the risk of giving incriminating evidence to a doctor, who wouldn't have legal privilege.

Knox says Planetta knew too that in Hyde's case, the Crown had agreed to release him, asking only that someone act as a surety for him.

Planetta was assigned as Hyde's counsel on Nov. 21, 2007, after the musician had been arrested on a complaint of domestic assault.


Howard Hyde

The inquiry is looking into how Hyde was treated by the health and justice systems after he was arrested and then Tasered while trying to break free from police at Halifax police headquarters.

Hyde, who had schizophrenia, died on Nov. 22, 2007, at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility, one day after he was Tasered by police. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CUPE hospital workers vote 85% in favour of strike

LABOUR Hospital workers across Nova Scotia who belong to CUPE have voted 85 per cent in favour of walking off the job to back contract demands.

Eighteen groups of CUPE members outside the Capital Health district have now completed their strike votes.

Union official Wayne Thomas said Friday of the 4,129 union members, 3,283 cast ballots with 2,781 voting to support a possible walkout.

The union maintains the workers will not take any form of job action before Jan. 11 because of the second wave of the H1N1 pandemic.

2,781 Of 3,283 CUPE hospital workers who took part in a strike vote, 2,781 were in support of a possible walkout.

The main issues in the dispute include achieving wage parity with hospital workers in the Capital district.

The CUPE members work in different bargaining units including jobs in clerical, housekeeping, laboratory, X-ray and other departments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man injured in bar fight
A man suffered cuts on his forearm and head after being struck by a beer bottle during a fight with another man inside the washroom of a bar on Agricola Street in Halifax early yesterday morning. Police say the incident happened at 1:20 a.m. METRO HALIFAX

Family to be briefed on shooting death

But Mounties refuse to release report on man shot by RCMP prior to dying in hospital

Family members of a man killed in a police shooting last year will be briefed today on the results of the investigation of his death, but have been told they won't receive a copy of the written report.

John Simon died in a Baddeck hospital about three hours after being shot by an RCMP officer at a Katie Lane home on Dec. 2, 2008.

For months, the Wagmatcook band has demanded the release of the report into the investigation of the shooting, which was commissioned by the RCMP from Halifax Regional Police. Representatives of both police agencies will be on hand for the meeting with Simon's family and Wagmatcook band council.

Brian Arbuthnot, the band's director of operations, said the band was notified on Wednesday that the report had been submitted to the RCMP, that they would review it and the family would be contacted.

Today's meeting will provide only a verbal briefing to the family and band and the RCMP has indicated the final report won't be available for review.

"We haven't been told why, we were just told it's not available, they've indicated some privacy matters," Arbuthnot said, adding the band is now reviewing its legal avenues for obtaining the report.

"There is a report, it's there, the band council, the community and the family in particular, want to see what happened to John that evening.

RCMP spokesperson Brigdit Leger confirmed that meetings have been scheduled for today. She said that, under the Privacy Act, the RCMP is not permitted to release the criminal investigation file into Simon's death.

Few details have been released about the shooting and some family members of the fisherman have disagreed with statements made by RCMP.

At the time of Simon's death, an RCMP spokesperson said officers administered first-aid and CPR to Simon at the scene, but would not say whether the man was carrying a gun when he was shot or whether shots were exchanged. CAPE BRETON POST

Mayor doesn't speak for us, Truro council says

POLITICS Truro town council wants the public to know opinions voiced by the mayor in regards to homosexual activity on Wood Street do not reflect their own.

"In conversation with my fellow councillors I understand ... the concerns related to public safety and illegal behaviour in the area. Recent opinions expressed in (the Truro Daily News) do not reflect the views of council," deputy mayor Greg MacArthur said in a press release issued Friday night.

MacArthur was referring to comments made by Mayor Bill Mills to the Truro Daily News on Tuesday, a day after Truro town council discussed possibly closing a portion of Wood Street. Mills' comments to the paper made reference to the area being a meeting spot for gay men in addition to the importance of keeping the location — which houses the town's watershed and is a popular spot for cross-country skiing — safe.


Bill Mills

Council held a special one-hour meeting Friday night to stress Mills' comments about homosexual activity in the area was not council's views. Mills was the only one absent from the meeting.

"Councillors wanted to make it known that what the mayor said is not our view ... in relation to bringing up gays. When the mayor speaks sometimes people think it's council's words. And we are not slamming any residents."
Greg MacArthur, deputy mayor

"He chose not to come," MacArthur said shortly after the meeting. "Councillors wanted to make it known that what the mayor said is not our view ... in relation to bringing up gays. When the mayor speaks sometimes people think it's council's words. And we are not slamming any residents."

MacArthur said despite the controversy, there isn't a "rift" between the mayor and councillors.

MacArthur said council will consider a policy to close a portion of Wood Street during the January 2010 council meeting.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

News in brief

SUSPICIOUS DEATH Cape Breton Regional Police are treating the death of a 31-year-old Glace Bay man as suspicious. A police spokesperson said officers responded to a 911 call Saturday at 3:45 p.m. that stated there was a deceased male inside an apartment on Brookland Street in Sydney. Major crime and forensic identification units were immediately called out to assist patrol officers with the investigation. The body of the man was being taken to Halifax yesterday for a forensic autopsy. The investigation into the suspicious death is ongoing.

MAN FOUND DEAD The body of a missing Trenton man has been found. Duncan Howard Cameron, 63, who was last seen Dec. 4, was reported missing earlier this week. RCMP and Trenton town police found the man's body, along with his vehicle, in the Laggon area on Friday. Police have ruled out foul play.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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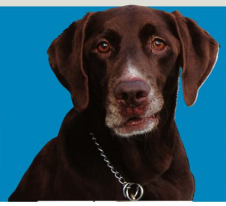
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Savings are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. See in-store for details.

Vehicles allowed back on Confederation Bridge

It's been a long wait for several truck drivers but the Confederation Bridge linking New Brunswick and P.E.I. is finally open again. Restrictions on high-sided vehicles were lifted just after 7 a.m. yesterday. The span was closed to trucks and other high-sided vehicles early Friday because of strong winds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Police dog 'smiles' after big pot bust

Most people can recognize when their dog is happy, but Otis, an RCMP chocolate Labrador retriever, doesn't leave anyone guessing. Officers with the Mounties Road Safety Unit stopped a vehicle about 30 kilometres east of Osoyoos, B.C., on Thursday morning. Officers knew something wasn't right and that's when they brought in Otis, who sniffed out about 1.5 kilograms of marijuana and several thousand dollars in cash. A picture taken of Otis, left, just after the bust shows the dog smiling. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP boss slams complaints chair

The head of the RCMP is bidding the force's complaints commissioner farewell by accusing him of creating an "inaccurate" picture that suggests the Mounties have obstructed the work of the federal police agency's independent watchdog.

The final weeks of Paul Kennedy's term as the chair of the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP have been marked by a public squabble with RCMP Commissioner William Elliott.

Kennedy, who leaves his post at the end of the month, released two damning reports last week while describing the force as a "massively inert" organization that is resistant to change.

"An inaccurate perception of the actions and motivations of the RCMP has been created."
RCMP Commissioner William Elliott

And in both cases — first a report into the death of Robert Dziekanski and then another into the use of a Taser on a 15-year-old girl in the Northwest Territories — Elliott posted letters on the RCMP website taking exception with the timing of the reports and Kennedy's comments about the force.

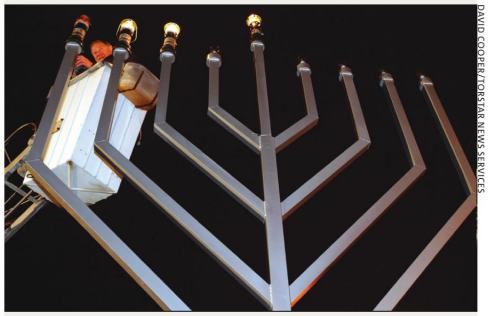
"Of more concern is the impression left by your public comments that the RCMP, and I as commissioner, are motivated or have attempted to prevent reports critical of the force from being made public. I categorically reject this," Elliott wrote to Kennedy in a letter released by the RCMP on Friday.

"An inaccurate perception of the actions and motivations of the RCMP has been created."

Typically, reports from the complaints commission include a response from the RCMP, but Kennedy set the release dates for the latest pair of reports before the force had formally replied.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto **Lighting the menorah**



DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Toronto city Coun. Howard Moscoe lights the menorah on the third evening of Hanukkah observance last night.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard says operating bases that have been home to Canadian infantry in Kandahar province will become increasingly empty. Instead, he tells The Canadian Press, the troops will be moving out of the relative safety of the bases into Kandahar city and other large towns. It's the only way, he says, to show Afghans that coalition troops are willing to share the risks they face from the insurgents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security certificates under review

TERROR The federal government has launched a sweeping review of a crumbling anti-terrorist law, acknowledging the system needs fixing, The Canadian Press has learned.

The review of the rickety national-security certificate system could scrap or revamp a law used to arrest and deport non-Canadians considered a threat to national security.

Certificates have existed for three decades, and more than two dozen have been issued since 1991.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

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Canadian soldier charged
A Canadian soldier who was on leave from duty in Afghanistan has been charged with sexual assault in Australia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Commander confident abuse issue addressed

The presence of correctional services experts from Canada should go a long way to ensuring detainees handed over to Afghan authorities are treated humanely, says Canada's top commander in Kandahar.

In an interview, Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard also said that halts to detainee transfers this year were for "procedural" reasons, not because of issues of abuse.

"We have learned an awful lot from the past," he said. "What I can guarantee you is that right now we have put in place everything in our power to ensure (humane treatment)."

A political firestorm has been raging in Ottawa over revelations that Canadian diplomat Richard Colvin repeatedly warned the government that Afghan detainees were being horrifically abused after Canadian soldiers handed them over to local authorities.

"What I can guarantee you is that right now we have put in place everything in our power to ensure (humane treatment)."
Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard

The abuse issue has been swirling around Ottawa since 2007, when reports began to emerge of the possible torture of detainees handed over by Canadian troops. The government moved to change its transfer agreement with Afghan authorities in 2007, but insisted all along it had not seen any credible evidence of torture in previous years.

Menard, who has only been in his position for a month, expressed confidence that the problem had been addressed. He did not say what would happen if Canadian officials suspected detainee abuse.

Under current protocols, the sole authority to detain, release or transfer suspected insurgents to Afghan authorities rests with Menard himself.

Canadian forces can only hold suspected insurgents for 96 hours before releasing or transferring them to the Afghan intelligence service. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Games **Capital on display**



SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Torchbearer and Ottawa Senators GM Bryan Murray, right, hands off the Olympic flame to Stephen Hale, of Truro, N.S., on the Samuel de Champlain lookout above the Ottawa river in Ottawa Saturday. The Olympic flame, which travelled all the way from Olympia in Greece, is now on its 44th day of its 106-day cross-country relay that will end in Vancouver on Feb. 12, 2010 to mark the start of the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Pedophile conspiracy report to be released this week

An inquiry spurred by murky rumours of a clandestine pedophile ring and coverup conspiracy in eastern Ontario will release its final report Tuesday, four years after being struck.

The release is the culmination of the Cornwall inquiry, which ended up with a $53-million price tag examining institutional responses to historical allegations of sex abuse.

Some have openly questioned the value of an inquiry that spent so many years and so many millions of dollars probing how public institutions operated decades ago, as practices governing how abuse allegations are dealt with have since changed.

The government estimates the final tab for the Ministry of the Attorney General will be $50 million, in addition to a $3.2 million special assistance grant for the city from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Social Housing for costs the city. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING No tweets allowed about that bagel you had for breakfast. Only a twit would have a staffer tweet in their place. Those are among the do's and don'ts that parliamentarians are learning as communication firms across Canada leap into the growing business of social media training to help politicians negotiate the minefield of Facebook and Twitter. One-third of all members of Parliament are now on Twitter, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has more than 30,000 followers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Don't be afraid to ask for some help

UrbanScrawl



I'm sure you've overheard someone in passing professing that "no one helps them."

Perhaps you've uttered these words yourself. As Canadians, we are fiercely independent. We are strong and proud, and admittedly don't like asking for help. No one does.

We are all guilty of it. I can think of more than a dozen times when I refused to ask for help and begrudgingly muddled along to finish a project I was working on with less success, and exerting more effort than I had intended.

I might have announced to someone in passing that I had so much to do, and how would I finish it all. Interestingly, the one thing I didn't do was ask for help. Perhaps someone even asked me if I wanted a hand, but I was too proud to take them up on their offer.

Wouldn't it be a lot simpler, if whenever we needed help from someone, we simply just asked. That we stopped beating around the bush, hoping someone would volunteer, implying it would be great to get help. I can't recall a time when someone specifically asked for help that I refused. Perhaps it's all in the means we go about asking.

It won't be easy, at least not at the beginning. Like many others, I am not a natural delegator. I take pride in doing a task from start to finish. I like challenging myself to do things I've never done before. But somewhere in all that, I lose myself.

By the end of a task I am much less excited about it, and may even resent that I had to do it. All because I was too afraid to ask for help.

Asking for help enables us to build a stronger community. It gives us an opportunity to get to know one another better. It helps us grow our own strengths and skills, and gives us an opportunity to teach others new ones. It lets us engage experts in areas that they are experts in. I don't need to be great at everything, but I do need to get better asking people who are to help out.

Once we've mastered the art of asking for help, we need to match it with the art of saying thanks. I help someone because I want to, not because I'm looking for a reward, or a favour in return. A simple thanks is all I need.

Christina Biluk is a member of FUSION Halifax. Visit FUSIONHalifax.ca to find out how you can get involved to help make Halifax a better place to live, work and play.

Views

Impress others by talking about nothing

HineSight



Today in our series on prepping for the holidays: The Art of Small Talk.

Many people consider "party manners" to be an oxymoron. Much like "too much coffee." Or "bad sex." However, at seasonal social events certain standards of behaviour are required that may not be necessary at other kinds of get-togethers, like, say, family gatherings. Among these is being prepared to speak pleasantly to people.

The ability to make small talk is the foundation of social success. That, and knowing that an open box of chocolates with the nougat ones missing does not make an acceptable hostess gift.

Loosely defined, "small talk" is the art of conversing with someone you don't know, on a subject you don't care about, and for reasons you can't quite figure out.

Small talk is such a vital human social skill that famed Polish anthropologist Kasper Malinowski Bronislaw (I'm not making this up) wrote many books on the art of polite conversation, but since these were largely full of observations about the weather, including, "My, isn't it cold here in Gdańsk in December?" and "Yes, it is," these were not big sellers.

Appropriate topics for "small talk" are easy to determine. Simply stick to topics that no one under any circumstance, in any universe, could possibly really care about and will take offence. This means, at all costs, avoiding themes such as politics, religion, any sport, whether Avatar was worth the $300 million, and dolphins.

Safe topics include: Lego sculptures, bobsledding and cheese. To be completely safe, restrict your remarks to, "Kittens are nice," and "I am holding a glass of wine." Tip: To improve your chances of being invited back, make sure you actually are holding wine as you say it. It is also OK to make critical comments about other people, though, as a general rule, it is best to wait until they are not actually present.

If, at the end of a conversation, you find you've managed to convey no information whatsoever about anything to anyone; congratulations. You've mastered the art of small talk.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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From call girl to columnist
The New York Post has hired Ashley Dupre, the former call girl whose tryst with former New York governor Eliot Spitzer led to his resignation last year, to write a weekly advice column dealing with sex and relationships. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Hundreds detained in Copenhagen

Go Green

Danish police outnumbered protesters yesterday, detaining more than 200 people on a second day of demonstrations as environment ministers met for informal talks to advance negotiations on a new pact.

Meanwhile, church bells in Denmark and other countries rang 350 times, a number that refers to what many scientists consider a safe level of carbon dioxide in the air.

Police stopped an unauthorized demonstration headed toward the city's harbour and carried out a security check of some of the participants, Copenhagen police spokesman Flemming Steen Munch told The Associated Press.

The hundreds of demonstrators were outnumbered by police officers in riot gear who surrounded them. Steen Munch said police found bolt-cutters and gas masks when they searched a truck that led the demonstration. At least 200 activists were detained, he said. A day earlier, police had detained nearly 1,000 activists at the tail end of a 40,000-strong march toward the suburban conference centre where the 192-nation UN climate conference is being held.


ANTON UNGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Danish police arrest demonstrators yesterday in Copenhagen.

Pre-emptive

- Critics blasted the Danish law that allows police to make preventative arrests if they believe a demonstration will turn violent and hold suspected troublemakers for up to 12 hours without a court arraignment.

The detainees were from a range of European countries as well as the U.S, Kenya, Belarus, Japan, Mongolia, China and Turkey, police said. Only 13 of them remained in custody yesterday. Of those, three — two Danes and a Frenchman — were set to be arraigned in court on preliminary charges of fighting with police.

A police officer received minor injuries when he was hit by a rock thrown from the group and one protester was injured by fireworks, Steen Munch said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$1.1-trillion bill goes to Obama for approval

WASHINGTON The U.S. Senate yesterday passed a $1.1-trillion spending bill with increased budgets for vast areas of the federal government including health, education, law enforcement and veterans' programs.

The 1,000-page-plus package, one of the last essential chores of Congress this year, passed 57-35 and now goes to U.S. President Barack Obama for his signature.

After the vote, the Senate immediately returned to debate on health-care legislation that has consumed its time and energy for weeks. The spending bill combines six of the 12 annual appropriation bills for the 2010 budget year that began on Oct. 1. Obama has signed into law five others.

The final one, a $626-billion defence bill, will be used as the base bill for another catch-all package of measures that Congress must deal with in the coming days. Those include action to raise the $12.1-trillion debt ceiling and proposals to stimulate the job market. The FBI gets $7.9 billion, a $680-million increase over 2009; the Veterans Health Administration budget goes to $45.1 billion from $41 billion; the National Institutes of Health receives $31 billion, a $692-million increase. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

LONDON Buckingham Palace has denied a newspaper report that Queen Elizabeth is passing more of her duties to her grandson, Prince William. Royal spokesman Miguel Head said the report that William is being groomed to be "shadow king," bypassing his father Prince Charles, is nonsense. The Mail newspaper yesterday said on its front page that the Queen is handing over a substantial part of her public duties to the prince to ease the 83-year-old monarch's work load. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Supporters rally around an Iranian student reportedly forced to wear women's clothing by authorities by posting hundreds of photos of men in women's garb. Scan this barcode for the full story.

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Nobel winner Samuelson dies at 94

Economist Paul Samuelson, who won a Nobel prize for his effort to bring mathematical analysis into economics, helped shape tax policy in the John F. Kennedy administration and wrote a textbook read by millions of college students, died yesterday. He was 94. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students say they were set up

Hundreds of students at Tehran University renewed anti-government protests for a second week yesterday, accusing authorities of fabricating images of demonstrators burning photos of the Islamic Republic's revered founder.

Students moved to the forefront of opposition on the streets with massive protests last week. They say authorities are using the images of burning photos as a pretext to crack down on their protests, which have helped revitalize the pro-reform movement.

State television has repeatedly shown images, ostensibly taken during student-led protests on Dec. 7, of unidentified hands burning and tearing up pictures of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. It was a grave and illegal insult against the former leader, still widely respected in the country. The elite Revolutionary Guard, the country's most powerful military force, called for the trial and punishment of those responsible. Student activists say authorities are trying to discredit them just as they begin to put up a new, powerful challenge to the regime. The opposition's mainstream leaders have struggled to dent the power of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iran's clerical leadership.

Former President Mohammad Khatami, a prominent opposition voice, also said students were not behind the destruction of the photos.

"Do not use the Imam to justify a harsher approach against those you do not like," he was quoted as saying on a pro-reform website called Parlemannews.

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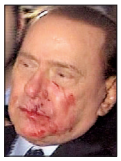
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Italian PM attacked

An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, striking the leader in the face at the end of a rally yesterday and leaving the 73-year-old media mogul with a broken nose and bloodied mouth.

Police said the 42-year-old man accused of attacking Berlusconi as he signed autographs in Milan was immediately taken into custody. The Italian leader was rushed to a hospital where he was being held overnight.



Silvio Berlusconi

The attack occurred at a time when Berlusconi, one of Italy's wealthiest men, is embroiled in a sex scandal, a divorce case with his wife and public protests demanding his resignation.

TV showed the stunned leader with blood under his nose, on his mouth and under one eye as he was lifted to his feet by aides after yesterday's attack. He was hustled into the back of a car, but he immediately got out, apparently to show he was not badly injured.

Berlusconi suffered a "small fracture" of the nose, two broken teeth and an injury to his lip, said Paolo Klun, chief spokesman for Milan's San Raffaele Hospital.

"He wanted to go home right away, but he is being held as a precaution" for overnight observation, Klun said. The premier suffered "a significant bruising trauma from this blunt instrument that was hurled at him."

Police first said it appeared the assailant had punched Berlusconi in the face while clutching a souvenir statue of Milan's Duomo, or cathedral with gargoyles that symbolizes the city. But state TV later showed a video, somewhat blurry, of what appeared to be the attacker's hand coming close to Berlusconi's face while holding the statue, then letting go of the object at the last minute as it hit the premier's face.

Berlusconi was "very shaken and demoralized," Klun said. "He didn't understand very well what happened to him."

Immediately after the attack, the premier, after getting out of the car and without saying a word, was pulled back into the vehicle by bodyguards.

The attack occurred after Berlusconi had just finished delivering a long, vigorous speech at the rally to thousands of applauding supporters from his Freedom People party in the square outside the cathedral at about 6:30 p.m.

Police identified the man they were questioning as Massimo Tartaglia, 42.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston elects first gay mayor

Yesterday Houston became the largest U.S. city to elect an openly gay mayor , with voters handing a solid victory to City Controller Annise Parker after a hotly contested run-off.

Several other U.S. cities, including Portland, Oregon, Providence, Rhode Island, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, have openly gay mayors, but none are as large as Houston.

Parker, 53, defeated her opponent, Gene Locke, with 53.6 per cent of the vote Saturday in a race that had a turnout of only 16.5 per cent.

While gay rights issues were not a focus of Parker's campaign, she began her political career as a gay activist.

She campaigned against the passage of a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in 2005 and has said she supports gay marriage.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ESCAPE Scores of suspected Islamic militants burst through a concrete wall then barged into a jail in the volatile southern Philippines yesterday, freeing 31 inmates in a nighttime attack that sparked a gunbattle in which two people were killed. The attackers and prisoners fled toward a jungle-covered mountainous area, an official said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Strike hits five-month mark
The strike at Vale Inco in Sudbury has hit the five-month mark.
More than 3,000 miners, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500, walked off the job back on July 13. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Wind of change for cell industry

The federal cabinet on Friday overturned a CRTC ruling preventing Globalive Communications Corp. from launching Wind Mobile as Canada's fourth national wireless carrier — a decision with significant ramifications for both Canadian consumers and the country's strictly regulated industry.

Much in the industry will now change: from the crucial minutiae of cellphone bills, to the shape and structure of the $16 billion sector that touches millions of Canadian lives, industry analysts say.

The quashing of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission decision from October, which determined Globalive was a foreign-controlled company and ineligible to launch, means big changes in the Canadian telecom sector, starting as early as next week — the earliest Globalive said it could launch in the Toronto and Calgary markets. For consumers, the decision is a clear win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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GM in talks to sell old Saab technology

AUTOMOTIVE General Motors Co. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's old technology to a Chinese company and the entire brand to another buyer, a person familiar with the negotiations said yesterday.

The person said GM plans to sell the technology behind the Saab models 93 and 95 to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings. The person spoke on condition of anonymity.

The person said the sale of the old technology to will help GM financially but won't stand in the way of a deal to sell the entire Saab brand and its current production to another buyer. Negotiations for such a deal are also taking place, the source said, but declined to say with whom.

General Motors earlier this month said it will phase out the Saab brand if it doesn't find a buyer for the brand before the end of December. About 4,500 jobs at Saab are at stake.

However, GM said new potential buyers had emerged after Sweden's Koenigsegg Automotive AB dropped out of a deal to buy the company in November. THE ASSOCIATED PRES



THOMAS KIENZLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo the logo of Saab is seen in front of a car dealer in Stuttgart, Germany. A person familiar with the negotiations said yesterday General Motors Corp. is in talks to sell parts of Saab Automobile's technology to Beijing Automotive Industry Holdings and the rest of the company to a second buyer.



U.S., Japan strike new agreement on flight limits

AIR TRAVEL The U.S. and Japan reached a landmark agreement Friday to relax limits on flights between the two countries, opening up the possibility of broader cross-border airline alliances and more options for air travellers.

Under the agreement, which still must be finalized by both governments, airlines from both countries would be allowed to select routes and destinations based on consumer demand for both passenger and cargo services without limitations on the number of U.S. or Japanese carriers that can fly between the two countries or the number of flights they can operate.

It would remove restrictions on capacity and pricing, and provide unlimited opportunities for co-operative marketing arrangements between U.S. and Japanese carriers. The agreement likely will prompt Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways to seek joint ventures with U.S. airlines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joint venture

- A joint venture allows airlines to share cost and revenue on certain flights regardless of which airline owns or flies the aircraft.

Business in brief

INDIA Volkswagen AG started production of its first compact car in India on Saturday, hoping to capture up to 10 per cent of the country's fast-growing automobile market within the next six years, the company said. The Polo, a compact hatchback, rolled off the lines at Volkswagen's factory in Pune, an auto hub a few hours outside Mumbai, shortly before noon.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OIL PRODUCTION Kuwait's oil minister says OPEC probably won't change its production levels when it meets next week. Sheik Ahmed al-Abdullah al-Sabah made the comments to state news agency KUNA yesterday. The agency quoted him as saying "it was unlikely the bloc would change output strategy" when it meets in Angola on December 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orangutan in danger
Asia's only ape — the orangutan — is in deep trouble. Climate change is adding to a range of pressures on its last remaining strongholds in the rainforests of Indonesia. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green



A new threat
The biggest threat to African elephants is no longer poachers but climate change. Longer dry seasons mean the elephants have to move further to find food and water — and that brings them into conflict with humans trying to protect their crops. WWF

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

The burden of Alberta's oilsands

Canadian politicians pushing for U.S. to shoulder costs of carbon emissions

Environment Minister Jim Prentice appears to be in agreement with former Liberal prime minister Paul Martin on who should pay for the environmental costs of Alberta's oilsands energy.

Martin has been quoted as saying the U.S. should shoulder some of Canada's carbon emissions burden because it's the chief user of energy from the oilsands.

Prentice, who is at the Copenhagen climate summit, says if Americans buy Canadian oil, the environmental costs should be absorbed on the U.S. side of the border.

Prentice told CTV News that's why the government is working so closely with the U.S. to make sure we have a harmonized system and a continental approach to reducing emissions.

The environment minister says whether it is regulations, or a cap and trade system, it must be integrated or we'll end up losing jobs in Canada and undertaking costs that are not our responsibility.

Martin, who served several years as finance minister, said he fully supports oilsands development.

But he also said development should proceed at a "rational pace," and the resulting environmental burden should be shared by the U.S.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill that contemplates border tariffs on so-called "dirty oil," such as that from Alberta's oilsands.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

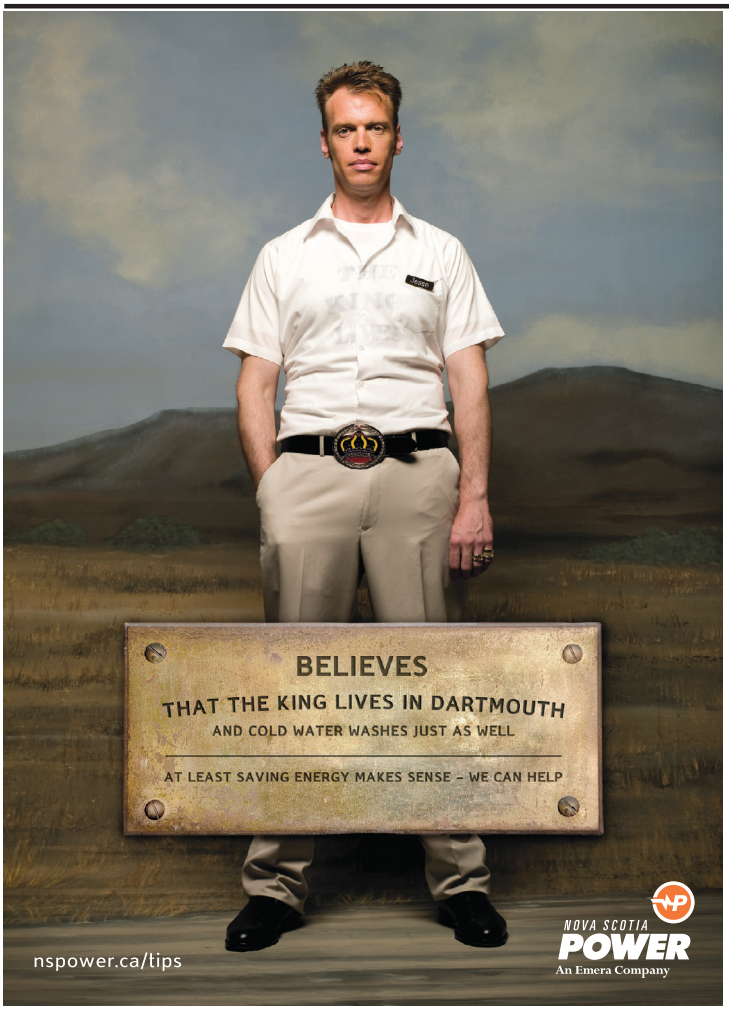


JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tailings pond reflects the Syncrude oilsands mine facility near Fort McMurray, Alta.



1,000
Denmark police reported they had arrested over 1,000 demonstrators following weekend long protests at the climate summit in Copenhagen. Protest organizers estimated 100,000 people had joined the march from downtown Copenhagen.





Climate change threatens giant pandas
China's famous giant pandas exist on a diet of bamboo, which in turn is part of a delicate ecosystem which could be disrupted by global warming. Recent research shows that climate change will lead bamboo to struggle coping with climate change. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Greenpeace lashes Obama on climate flip-flopping

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
Metro World News

There's little that Naidoo won't do...

Executive Director of Greenpeace International, Kumi Naidoo began his career as a human rights activist at the age of 14 in his native South Africa fighting against apartheid.

In the light of the Copenhagen climate conference Naidoo speaks to Metro about speaking out against President Obama, the struggle that is Copenhagen and most importantly, a legally binding treaty.

Q You recently spoke out against Obama's decision to back down on some of the commitments of Copenhagen...

A Ever since the Bali Summit, we have known that climate change was a major issue. When Obama was running for president, he was always speaking about the perils of the planet.



METRO WORLD NEWS
Kumi Naidoo became the first African to head up Greenpeace.

He should therefore know that the more delay, the more risks of peril we run from climate related impact.

The more we delay action, the more we risk putting peoples' lives in peril.

We want a binding treaty.

We will push for this until the last minute.

Q Do you believe you speaking out on Obama has made a difference?

A Some of our response has shifted the tone. Ban Ki Moon was pulling back and is now back to using the terms "Treaty" and "Binding." Even the United States and China are slowly changing their stance.

Q What do you hope will come out of the summit in Copenhagen?

To push for a binding treaty in Copenhagen. Recently, dominant governments such as the United States have lowered their expectations and commitment towards fighting climate change.

Q Who are the biggest culprits in terms of negative impact on the environment and climate change?

A The US, Canada and the European Union — the Big 8 really.

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Denver's Marshall sets record

Denver Broncos receiver Brandon Marshall, right, broke Terrell Owens' NFL record for receptions in a game with 21. Marshall set the record yesterday on Denver's final offensive play of a 28-16 loss to Indianapolis. Owens caught 20 passes for San Francisco Dec. 17, 2000. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sports



Nesbitt strikes gold

Christine Nesbitt raced to victory in the 1,000 metres yesterday on a golden weekend for the long-track speedskater, while the women's pursuit team added a silver and the men's team earned bronze. Nesbitt, from London, Ont., won in a time of one minute 13.36 seconds to claim her second World Cup victory in as many days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA



DARREN CALABRESE FOR METRO HALIFAX

Chris Doyle of the Prince Edward Island Rocket uses his stick to hamper Halifax Mooseheads' Steve Gillard's ability to control the puck Saturday night during second-period play at the Halifax Metro Centre.

Herd can't hold leads

PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads skated away with one point over the weekend, but were in line for much more.

Halifax held third-period home leads against both the Moncton Wildcats and the Prince Edward Island Rocket — but in each instance wound up losing by a goal.

The Mooseheads dropped a 3-2 decision to Moncton Friday night, and followed that with a 6-5 overtime setback to the Rocket Saturday.

Against P.E.I., Jordan Costello potted his first goal of the season for the Mooseheads to give the Herd a 5-4 lead with 14 minutes left in regulation time. But three minutes later, Samson Mahbod tied it on the power play for P.E.I., and then in overtime, Port Morien's Jarred Struthers scored his second of the night on another man advantage at the 2:23 mark.

Gerrad Grant scored twice to lead the way offensively for Halifax, which outshot the Rocket 42-25. Tomas Knotek, with his team-leading 16th, and Charles Bety had the other Halifax goals.

Against Moncton, the Mooseheads took a 2-1 lead two minutes into the third when defenceman Pascal Amyot scored his fourth of the season on the power play. But midway through the third, Ted Stephens tied things on the power play for the Wildcats, setting the stage for Scott Brannon's heroics late in regulation.

The New Glasgow forward broke down the left side during a Halifax power play and let go a weak backhand that found its way past goalie Mathieu Corbeil at the 18:33 mark.

Halifax will try to avenge its loss to Moncton tomorrow when it visits the Wildcats at 7 p.m.

Attendance woes

- Attendance at both weekend games at the Metro Centre was well below the 5,000 mark — which has been a continuing trend this month. A crowd of 4,546 came out Saturday, with 4,541 fans attending the night before. The Mooseheads average attendance prior to December was 5,288. But in four home games this month, average attendance is just 4,514. That has dropped Halifax's average attendance to 4,872 through 17 home dates.

Cole Harbour's Grant notches first-round TKO

UFC Cole Harbour welterweight T.J. Grant stopped Kevin Burns by first-round TKO at UFC 107 Saturday night in Memphis, Tenn.

The 25-year-old felled Burns with a right to the head and then pounced on him, delivering a half-dozen hammer-fists and punches before referee Greg Franklin stepped in at 4:57.

Burns came out aggressively, but Grant (15-3) survived the onslaught and took him down briefly. But Burns continued to stalk Grant and dropped him at the fence, administering some punishment. The Canadian survived, although Franklin was watching closely.

"I recovered real quick but there was a quick second when I was on my back and didn't know what happened," Grant said. "He's a big guy. He hits hard."

With the victory, Grant is 2-1 in UFC.

In the main event, lightweight champion B.J. Penn dominated Diego Sanchez en route to a fifth-round TKO.

Sanchez, who had never been stopped before, was simply outgunned and outmatched. He did not complain when the one-sided fight was finally halted due to a massive gash on his forehead.

"In 10 years of being in this business, I don't know if I've ever seen anybody more busted up than (Sanchez) is right now," said UFC president Dana White, who sported a Tiger Woods baseball cap to the post-fight news conference.

In the co-main event, former heavyweight champion Frank Mir made short work of Cheick Kongo, dropping the six-foot-four, 239-pound Frenchman with a looping left before putting him to sleep with a guillotine choke at 1:12 of the first round.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



JOSH HEDGES/UFC

Cole Harbour's T.J. Grant raises his arms in victory Saturday night at UFC 107.

m.metronews.ca

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Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3



Massa set to get back behind wheel

Felipe Massa's return to racing continued yesterday when Ferrari said the Brazilian driver will get behind the wheel of a Formula One car in the "next few days." Massa hasn't raced since suffering life-threatening injuries in a crash at July's Hungarian Grand Prix. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martin wins spot in Olympics

Olympic silver medallist Kevin Martin will get his opportunity to go for gold at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Edmonton skip lived up to his top billing yesterday, beating longtime rival Glenn Howard 7-3 in the final of the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

"The guys played an awesome game today. They really set it up well for us. What a great day," a jubilant Martin said moments after the game.

"We put a lot of pressure on them early in the game."

Martin, who started the game with hammer, took control early and was leading 5-1 after five ends.

The 43-year-old Martin last represented Canada at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake, where he settled for silver after losing to Norway's Pal Trulsen in the final.



NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skip Kevin Martin, second from left, celebrates with teammates John Morris, left, Marc Kennedy, front right, and Ben Hebert, back right, after defeating Team Howard 7-3 to win the 2009 Canadian Olympic Curling Trials finals in Edmonton yesterday.

"We made it in 2002. Now to get another crack at it, it's a dream come true," said Martin, who was still letting the victory sink in.

"I think there's so much going on right now through the body that I haven't thought of that yet. We've just got to cherish this moment. That's a big win," he added.

His third, John Morris, is getting his first crack at going to the Olympic Games.

"Couldn't be happier. Dream's come true. We're going to go to Vancouver and we're going to do our best to bring home that gold, boys," said Morris.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 101 Houston 88
Atlanta 130 New Jersey 107
Cleveland 102 Oklahoma City 89
Memphis 118 Miami 90
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers N

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Colorado 3 Calgary 2
Chicago 4 Tampa Bay 0

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Baltimore 48 Detroit 3
Buffalo 16 Kansas City 10
Green Bay 21 Chicago 14
Houston 34 Seattle 7
Indianapolis 28 Denver 16
Miami 14 Jacksonville 10
Minnesota 30 Cincinnati 10
New England 20 Carolina 10
New Orleans 26 Atlanta 23
N.Y. Jets 26 Tampa Bay 3
San Diego 20 Dallas 17
Tennessee 47 St. Louis 7
Washington 34 Oakland 13
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants N





Looking down the rabbit hole

It'sCalledFootball



Ben Rycroft

metronews.ca/itscalledfootball

How far down the rabbit hole are you willing to go, Alice? It's a question the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) needs to be asking itself right now.

Over the weekend news broke that UEFA is investigating Bulgarian referee Anton Genov for allegedly fixing a game between Canada and Macedonia.

The game, which was nothing more than a friendly, saw an unusually high amount of Euros wagered on it — specifically on the over bet of 2.5 total goals and on the number of penalties to be called in the game.

The game ended 3-0 for Macedonia and there were four penalties called — including one very questionable penalty that came in the final minute of a game with no implications or other importance.

UEFA has suspended Genov and barred him from all competitions while they investigate.

Meanwhile, the response from the CSA and the Macedonians has been alarmingly predictable.

"The Canadian Soccer Association confirms that none of its players or staff were in any way associated with the alleged match-fixing incident recently reported in relation to the Nov. 14, 2009 match which featured Macedonia vs. Canada. The Canadian Soccer Association has not been contacted by UEFA or FIFA in respect of this match," CSA general secretary Peter Montopoli wrote in an email.

Peter sent me that email just hours after the story broke. It's their standard PR approach but it raises questions about how the CSA could confirm anything about that game having just learned of it.

Had they conducted an investigation already? Had they spoken to all of the players? Had they checked to see if they had any new BMWs kicking around?

My guess is not. But that's the approach most federations take when confronted with match-fixing allegations — they choose not to go down the rabbit hole for fear of what they might find.

In no way am I suggesting that Canadian players were involved. But it is the responsibility of the CSA to fully find out. They need to do the due diligence, talk to their players and be sure.

Otherwise, years from now, we may wake up in Wonderland with Europe and wonder what happened.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Monday at metronews.ca; ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

Accenture ends six-year relationship with Woods

SPONSOR Global consulting firm Accenture Ltd. has ended its relationship with Tiger Woods, marking the first major sponsor to cut ties altogether with the golfer since his alleged infidelities surfaced and he announced an indefinite leave from the sport to work on his marriage.

In its first statement since the Woods' scandal erupted, Accenture said yesterday the golfer is "no longer the right representative" after the "circumstances of the last two weeks."

The move ends a six-year relationship during which the firm credited its "Go on, be a Tiger" campaign with boosting its image significantly. Accenture has used Woods to personify its claimed attributes of integrity and high performance.

"After careful consideration and analysis, the company has determined that he is no longer the right representative for its advertising," Accenture said, adding that "it wishes only the best for Tiger Woods and his family."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gillette

- While not terminating their relationship completely, another major Woods sponsor pulled away this weekend. On Saturday, Gillette said it won't air advertisements featuring Woods or include him in public appearances for an unspecified amount of time.

Olds College opens Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation
Last week, Alberta's Olds College celebrated the grand opening of the Canadian Equine Centre for Innovation. The centre will incorporate leading-edge expertise, facilities, technology, and applied research to provide unique human resource solutions for the $15.7-billion equine industry. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology



Grad tax credit coming?

In a new report on pre-budget consultations, the federal Standing Committee on Finance recommends Ottawa create a refundable tax credit for new graduates, and make the credit available to those who move to designated regions and work in their field of study.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

What a cheesy job

OddJobs



Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

Scott McKenzie wishes he could say the dairy farm in the tiny Nova Scotia town he grew up in had a big influence on him. But his family ate cheese from the grocery store.

And McKenzie, now 41, had a bigger taste for the theatre at the time. He studied drama and education at Concordia University in Montreal, and eventually moved to Toronto where he acted, directed, wrote and danced.

But 15 years ago, he decided to change careers.

"I've always said theatre is something you do because you can't not do it." He took a job as a waiter while he though it out.

He dabbled in other careers, taking up massage therapy at one point. But then he realized he was meant to work with food and drink. "This is the stuff I love, so I should be doing it all the time."

By the time he was working a manager in the high-end Auberge du Pommier, he decided he needed a specialized skill to go farther in the industry.

Everyone he knew was getting into wine. But seven years ago, he read The Cheese Plate by Max McCalman. "That's what I want to do," he thought.

So he enrolled in the first ever courses offered by the Cheese Education Guild. After graduating — and now able to call himself a fromager — McKenzie immediately found himself in demand.

Whenever he wasn't at his manager job, he was doing freelance work at other restaurants, doing talks at wineries, running seminars and creating cheese courses for weddings.

Three years ago, he left the restaurant and went freelance. Around the same time, he got a part-time job at George Brown College, coaching students in the school's restaurant.

To keep up on the latest in his industry: "I eat cheese from morning 'til night." Breakfast is a hunk of Saint Marcellin, a Swiss cheese rich in omega 3 fatty acids. Whenever he can, he stops by Toronto's St. Lawrence Market or a cheese shop for an array of cheeses: He'll set up as many as 20 on a board and do a tasting for himself.

You'd think that'd mess with his health but McKenzie is trim and has low cholesterol levels. He credits cheese's enzymes that some say help your body break down fat.

Health benefits aside, more people are getting into gourmet cheese.

"I think cheese in Canada is where wine was 20 years ago, I think it's going to go through the same crazy surge the wine industry experienced."



Scott Mckenzie started in theatre, but his true love was cheese.



The Lowdown

Job title: Fromager
Salary: Depends on what you're doing, and how much you do it
Education/training: Courses through organizations like the Cheese Education Guild; the new Professional Fromager Certificate McKenzie is launching at George Brown College; tasting and reading on your own
Best Part of the Job: "People are so interested, they're so excited to find out more about cheese."
Worst Part of the Job: "Inconsistency. I can't ever say no to anything, there's no regularity to it."

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

Rule No. 1: Pace yourself

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Ah, the office holiday party — eagerly awaited for months, just as eagerly wished away from memory by unfortunate souls. Everyone has "that" office party story where someone crossed the line or did something incredibly stupid and sometimes the anxiety related to the party itself can be just as personally traumatizing.

Given that it all takes place among people you share your work with or owe your job too, the fun of the office holiday party can quickly turn to fear and regret.

Martin M. Anthony, professor of psychology at Ryerson University and author of the Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook, says some anxiety is natural but often people imagine a much worse outcome than what is likely to happen.

When it comes to things like letting an inappropriate joke slip through, spilling your drink or mispronouncing someone's name, Anthony says it's important not to sweat the small stuff because, for the most part, other people won't either.

"A lot of times when we make these minor gaffes, we are the often the person most concerned about it. Many times it doesn't matter that much to others," Anthony said.

If you truly want to avoid those legendary water-cooler disaster moments, Anthony can't stress enough that limiting your alcohol consumption is crucial.

"When people are anxious they often drink more at parties, which can make you more uninhibited. Alcohol actually has the same physical effect on the brain as many anti-anxiety medications, but some anxiety is good because you need to monitor your behaviour to not offend people," Anthony said.

If you're new in the office and worried about not having enough to say, plan out a few talking points in advance and don't set yourself up mentally to fail.

"Think in advance of the kinds of things you want to talk about and challenge your own anxious thoughts," Anthony said.

Don't expect to be a perfect social butterfly at all times and don't worry about pauses and silent moments in a conversation — they are natural.

"A lot of people who are nervous about making small-talk are particularly worried about those little silences that happen during small talk. Silence doesn't instantly mean you're boring — all conversations eventually settle, so don't be afraid of it," Anthony said.



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Bachelor reject Rycroft ties knot
Nearly a year after being rejected on national television by Jason Mesnick, former Bachelor contestant Melissa Rycroft is finally a married woman. Rycroft swapped vows with her fiancé of six months on Saturday in Mexico. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment



No more Vuitton
Madonna has been dropped as the face of luxury brand Louis Vuitton. The singer was signed to appear in a string of ads for the fashion house's 2009 campaign. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Here comes Oscar bait

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News

As the year comes to an end, theatres are seeing a breed of movies that are different than your average popcorn flick. They are very serious but inspiring; they are packed with big names and an anointed new star for good measure; they take a well-calculated risk or two. They are, in short, shameless Oscar baits, and studios are throwing them at the screen in order to qualify for the 2010 Academy Awards.

We've broken down some of the more conspicuous ones that are currently playing in theatres or are on the cusp of release, but we're not making any predictions.

INVICTUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Based on a true story in which Nelson Mandela teams up with the captain of South Africa's rugby team to bring together the country post-Apartheid.
Star power: Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star; Clint Eastwood directs.

PRECIOUS
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: Pregnant for the second time by her father, an obese, illiterate, abused teen learns to read in an attempt to improve her life.
Star power: The buzz is surrounding newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, but Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey and Lenny Kravitz are also on the bill.



NINE
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: An Italian director deals with his mid-life crisis by getting tangled up with a number of women, all the while singing and dancing — it's based on the 1982 musical.
Star power: It's impossible to assemble more A-list, leading ladies: Judi Dench, Nicole Kidman, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz, and Sophia Loren.
Wild card: In addition to that A-list cast, Fergie and Kate Hudson are on board as, respectively, a prostitute and a fashion reporter.

THE LOVELY BONES
Weighty and/or ambitious subject: After her rape and murder, a young girl watches over her family and killer from heaven, hoping that someone will find her body and working through her own grief.
Star power: Alice Sebold wrote the bestselling book; Peter Jackson is directing; and Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz star.



The Lovely Bones, left, and Nine are among a slew of current and upcoming films gunning for Oscar attention.

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It's a boy!
Kendra Wilkinson and her husband, Indianapolis Colts player Hank Baskett, have welcomed their first child, a boy. Hank Baskett IV was born via C-section early Friday morning in Indianapolis. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cooking with Gordon

Foul-mouthed chef invites viewers to cook with him

For years, viewers have watched Chef Gordon Ramsay reduce aspiring and even seasoned chefs to sliced and diced vegetables on shows like Hell's Kitchen and Kitchen Nightmares. So the prospect of cooking alongside him in a public forum is enough to make even the most hardened critic turn into a beaten egg white.

That was the challenge last summer as critics from across North America were invited to prepare a dish with the hot-headed TV chef. Now viewers will get the same opportunity when Gordon Ramsay: Cookalong Live premieres tomorrow on Global and Fox (repeating the next night on the Food Network).

The Scottish-born chef and restauranteur stood before critics last summer at the annual press tour in Los Angeles and barked orders while dozens of scribes attempted to whisk egg whites into something resembling a peak.

"(Have you) never made a Baked Alaska before?" Ramsay shouted from the stage where he stood with whisk and bowl.


Chef Gordon Ramsay shows television critics how to make Baked Alaska at a press tour in Pasadena, Calif., in August.

Most critics struggle with half-baked story ideas. We're usually the crabs being served on press tour, not the ones trying to prepare anything edible.

"Where the hell did you get that shirt from?" he asked one critic dressed for the beach. "If your cooking is as bad as your dress sense," he continued, dropping one of his usually bleeped F-bombs.

Still, this wasn't the rude Ramsay one is used to seeing on television. He was here on this day to promote his show. He promised he'd be on his best behaviour on Cookalong Live, too, as he helps homemakers try to prepare a pretty complicated meal in real time as they watch the hour-long special next Tuesday night.

He was looking forward to the challenge because, for one thing, he says he never really gets to cook properly on his other shows. "The biggest complaint I've had from, not just family, but from viewers, customers that are in the restaurant, is that 'We don't see you cook enough,'" he says. The French-trained chef, who has earned 16 Michelin stars, feels working in a far less pressurized TV environment should help him show off his culinary skills — as well as control his potty mouth.

The live special will present a full 60-minute challenge for chefs at home, with Angel Hair Pasta with shrimp, chili and tomatoes, Steak Diane with sauteed potatoes and peas and a Quick Tiramisu all on the menu. A well-stocked kitchen will be in order; a full list of ingredients can be found at globaltv.com. That's where you'll also find certain preparation tips online that will help home chefs stay with the program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Entertainment in brief

WEEKEND BOX OFFICE The Princess and the Frog: $25 million US; 2. The Blind Side: $15 million; 3. Invictus: $9 million; 4. The Twilight Saga: New Moon: $8 million; 5. A Christmas Carol: $6.9 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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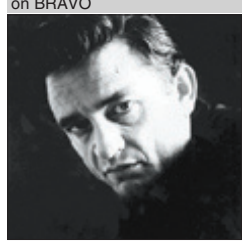
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8 Chris Brown ft Lil Wayne - I Can Transform Ya
7 Beyonce ft Lady Gaga - Video Phone
6 David Guetta ft Akon - Sexy Chick
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HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/14/09 primetime	31	31	31 ABC	News Center 5	ABC Wld News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Jennifer Hudson-Christmas		Find My Family (N)		Castle
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	The Beatles on Record		Two/Half Men	Big Bang	Atlantis
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Grinch	Frosty	Mr. Bean	Stuart McLean	CBC News: The National		The Hour
	2	2	2 CBC-F	Pyramide (SC)	La force	Martin sur la route (N) (SC)		La Petite Séduction (N) (SC)		Le Grand Rire 2009		Le Téléjournal
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang	CSI: Miami (N)
	69	69	69 CFTM	TVA nouvelles	Le Cercle (SC)	*Clic* ★★ (2006, Comédie) Adam Sandler, Christopher Walken.				Deux filles à Noël (N)		TVA nouvelles
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NCIS: Los Angeles (N)		House (HDTV)		(10:01) Lie to Me (N)		News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	etalk	Access H.	*Shrek 2* ★★★ (2004, Comedy) Voices of Mike Myers.				CSI: Miami (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	10	10	10 ELTV	Face to Face	Fishing	Sportsland (Live)		Face to Face	Sportsland		Special	Comm. Matters
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (HDTV)		(10:01) Lie to Me (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News (N)	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	The Sing-Off "Pilot" Eight a cappella groups compete.				Jay Leno Show
	29	29	29 NW	(6) Power & Politics		Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Obama-Planet
	4	4	4 PBS-B	PBS NewsHour (N)		Greater Boston	Chronicles	Antiques Roadshow		Jerusalem: Center of the World (HDTV)		
	35	35	35 PBS-D	PBS NewsHour (N)		Business Rpt.	Worldfocus	Dr. Wayne Dyer: Excuses Begone!				
	68	68	68 TQS	Guerre clans	Mariages	Catherine (SC)	Rire et délire	*Un Noël pour l'éternité* (2006, Fantastique) Jay Mohr. (SC)				Guerre clans
news	23	96	96 BNN	Business News	Headline	Market Call Tonight		MoneyTalk	Market Call	Squeeze Play		Business News
	18	18	18 CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
sports	54	54	54 GOLF	Golf Central	Top 10 (HDTV)	Ultimate Matches		Golf Fix Tips	Golf Fix Tips	Big Break Disney Golf (HDTV)		Lessons
	52	52	52 RSE	Connected W-Prime Time		NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Con.
	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers Experts	RaceNight				(10:15) WWE Monday Night RAW		
	45	45	45 SPD	Unique Whips		Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Auctions
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	That's Hockey!	Monday Night Countdown		NFL Football Arizona Cardinals at San Francisco 49ers.			
family	43	43	43 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	44	44	44 TOON	Jimmy Two	Johnny Test	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
	26	26	26 TREE	Dora the Explorer		Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar
	27	27	27 YTV	Garfield Xmas	Charlie Brown	A Flintstone Christmas		Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		Criminal Minds "P911"		Intervention "Nikki"		Intervention "Jennifer"		Hoarders
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN National News (N)		Vers l'or canadien		Notre Peuple		*Rendez-vous sur la Lune* (1995, Fantastique)		
	50	50	50 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (Live)				The Unit		The Unit "Bait"		The Unit
	37	37	37 BRVO	Wind at My Back		Chasing the Tango High		Christmas Together		Johnny Cash Christmas		Cash
	25	25	25 CMT	Home for Christmas		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Denis Leary
	153	153	153 COURT	W-FIVE		True Crime "Blow"		Cops Uncut	Dumb Criminal	Missing Link		True Crime
	38	38	38 DISC	Canada's Worst Driver		Daily Planet (N)		MythBusters		Dirty Jobs "Camel Rancher"		Worst Driver
	48	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters
	46	46	46 HIST	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360		Battles BC		Apocalypse
	17	17	17 MM	Secret Life of American Teen		Secret Life of American Teen		The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		Dance
	19	19	19 MMM	mmtop10.ca		The Daily Fix		Ranked!		All Access		Entourage
	201	201	201 M1	Fuddlebee	(7:20) *Out of Control* (2009, Suspense)			Sanctuary "Nubbins"		Dexter "The Getaway"		Californication
	48	23	23 OLN	Mantracker		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters
	51	51	51 PEACH	The Office	Name Is Earl	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Hitch*
	206	206	206 PIX	*License to Drive* ★★ (1988, Comedy)			*Black Pearls* ★ (1990, Drama)			*Jackass: The Movie* ★★ (2002, Comedy)		
	67	67	67 RDI	RDI monde	RDI économie	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		*The Christmas Choir* (2008, Drama) Jason Gedrick.				Bones
	40	40	40 SLICE	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		10 Pounds	10 Pounds	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes
	47	47	47 SPACE	Stargate SG-1		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Manticore* ★ (2005, Science Fiction)		
	14	14	14 SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Wild World	The Ultimate Fighter	
	57	98	98 STAR	etalk	TMZ (N)	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		Dr. Oz Show
	21	21	21 TLC	Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Little People	Little People	Little People	Little People	Cake Boss (N)	Cake Boss	BBQ Pit
	56	34	34 TROP	Carlawood	Carlawood	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy
	20	20	20 TV5	Que.-champion	Journal de Fr2	Nougaro		1929		(9:55) 1929	Cartes	Musées
	28	28	28 V	Doc		Murder, She Wrote		Husband & I	Summer Wine	*Secret Santa* ★★ (2003, Drama) Jennie Garth.		
	60	97	97 VIVA	Da Vinci's Inquest		Cold Case "Red Glare"		Missing "Off the Grid"		The Closer (Part 1 of 2)		Cold Case
	22	22	22 W	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	*The Man Who Saved Christmas* (2002, Docudrama), Ed Asner				*All She Wants for Christmas* (2006, Drama)		
	251	251	251 WGN	WGN Evening News		Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries		The Vampire Diaries		WGN News

critics' corner

Johnny Cash Christmas Special
'Tis the season for red and green — and the Man in Black. Johnny Cash is gone, but his holiday performances linger on in several television specials he did in the 1970s, which Bravo! Canada is airing over two evenings. In this edition from 1976, Cash's guests include fellow country music legends Roy Clark and Merle Travis, pop star Tony Orlando, and evangelist Billy Graham. 10 PM on BRAVO



Jennifer Hudson: I'll Be Home for Christmas
In this one-hour special, the Academy Award-winning singer and actress ("Dreamgirls") travels to Chicago to relive childhood Christmases by performing at her small neighborhood church, the music academy where she studied and other Windy City locations. Hudson also visits with family members, childhood friends and others who influenced her and started her on the road to stardom. 9 PM on ABC

Stuart McLean's Vinyl Cafe Christmas Pageant
The host of the popular radio show "The Vinyl Cafe" takes his act to television in this holiday special, in which he relates his determination to put on a holiday pageant for the people of Belleville, Ont., whether they like it or not. How does it turn out? Well, let's just say the term "comedy of errors" comes to mind. 9:30 PM on CBC



Sims spills the beans and Eckhart splits

Aaron Eckhart reportedly ended his month-long relationship with Molly Sims because she confirmed to the press that they were dating, according to Star magazine. "He's an incredibly private guy," a source says. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Good Charlotte's good time buddy

JUST FRIENDS While some reports are calling Benji Madden Holly Madison's boyfriend, the former Girls Next Door star is labeling him her "adventure buddy," people.com reports.

"I don't want to talk about him, except that I like him," Madison said when asked about reports linking her to the Good Charlotte guitarist.

The possible coupling comes after the duo were spotted in Los Angeles at a coffee shop. The two have also flirted over Twitter, with Madden even hyping Madison's E! show with Tweets.

The blonde bombshell wouldn't say whether she and Madden are an item, calling him simply her "mysterious adventure buddy." She adds, "I think everyone needs an adventure buddy."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Divorce gets dirty

A MESSY BUSINESS With divorce proceedings under way, new details are emerging about just how upset Brandi Glanville was over her husband, Eddie Cibrian, leaving her for LeAnn Rimes. According to custody papers, Cibrian alleges Glanville slashed the tires of his motorcycle and told him that "it made her feel better," according to TMZ. The pair are battling for custody of their two children. METRO WORLD NEWS



Hudson spreading her Christmas cheer

SCROOGES BEWARE! Jennifer Hudson is on a mission to convert you, people.com reports.

"It hurts me so when I see people like, 'Whatever, Christmas is just another day,'" the self-proclaimed "holiday fanatic" told People. "I'm that person who's going to go over there and get you into the holiday spirit. And that's how I've always been."

With that kind of attitude, it's no surprise the Academy Award winner plans to help audiences across the country get into the spirit tonight with her first televised holiday special.

Jennifer Hudson: I'll be Home for Christmas features musical performances shot on location in Hudson's native Chicago (the local church where she got her start singing in the choir and the music academy where she studied, among other places). Hudson will also introduce audiences to her family, former teachers and childhood friends.

"The first thing you do for the holidays is go back home, so I went back home, and the next thing you do is spend it with all of your family and your friends in those familiar places. "That's why I chose to go back home and share it and make it personal," Hudson said.

As excited as Hudson is to share this Christmas with her fans, there's one person she simply can't wait to spend it with — her four-month-old son David Daniel Otunga Jr.

"I need to make it great for him," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Holiday house hunting

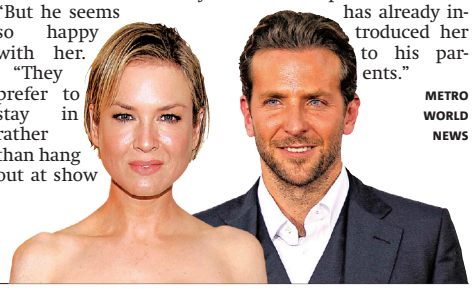
PLAYING HOUSE Though they continue to dodge questions about their relationship, Bradley Cooper and Renee Zellweger appear to be ready to take things to the next level.

Sources say the pair were out looking at homes for sale in Los Angeles, according to Page Six.

"Until Renee, Bradley had a reputation as a ladies' man and a heartbreaker," a source says. "But he seems so happy with her.

"They prefer to stay in rather than hang out at show business parties, and he has already introduced her to his parents."

METRO WORLD NEWS

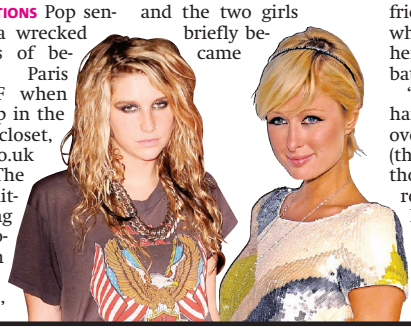


Upset stomach, upset Paris

VIOLENT ERUPTIONS Pop sensation Ke$ha wrecked her chances of becoming Paris Hilton's BFF when she threw up in the socialite's closet, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Tik Tok hitmaker sang backing vocals on Hilton's album, Paris, and the two girls briefly became friends — but that ended when Ke$ha mistook the heiress' wardrobe for her bathroom.

"We were all dancing, hanging out [and] I got overexcited and ralphed (threw up) in her closet. I thought it was a bathroom," she said. "That kind of ended the relationship right there. I wouldn't want to be my friend either."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Werewolf whops rapper on live TV

BELLA, I MEAN, TAYLOR, I'LL PROTECT YOU Just weeks after Taylor Swift's appearance on Saturday Night Live, her "really close" friend, Taylor Lautner, took centre stage Saturday to host the late-night sketch show, people.com reports. In his opening monologue, Lautner hilariously defended Swift's honour by beheading a Kanye West mannequin with some impressive martial arts kicks. The New Moon star, who was on stage during the rapper's infamous VMA faux pas, reenacted the scene — making himself into a high-kicking hero by knocking West's block off and then kissing his fair maiden.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Winehouse's dad slights ex-son

A REAL CLASS ACT Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are definitely not back together despite their reunion last week, according to the singer's father, Mitch Winehouse, who claims Fielder-Civil made more than $8,000 US by tipping off photographers about their meet-up. "He has a funny way of showing his love. Nice earner though," Mitch posted on his Twitter account. He went on to call his former son-in-law "a liar, violent criminal and betrayer."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Spencer Pratt outsources his gift-giving decisions, Lindsay Lohan agitates her employees, Demi Lovato admits she has a problem, and Brody Jenner isn't being a very good listener.

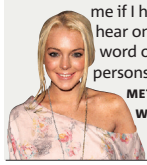
• @spencerpratt What are some gift suggestions for the best wife in the world? I know I have the smartest twitter fam so u guys will def help

• @lindsaylohan Having a heated debate w/ my security guard about politics&I'm seconds from leaving my table! Never debate over dinner!! You'll leave hungry

• @ddlovato I think I just overdosed on Schoolhouse Gummy vitamins..... THEY WERE JUST.. SO.. GOOD.

• @BrodyJenner Wow shoot me if I have to hear one more word out of this persons mouth

METRO WORLD NEWS



Rihanna won't shut Brown out of her life forever

FORGIVENESS IS THE SWEETEST REVENGE Rihanna admits that she feels "embarrassed" by her past relationship with Chris Brown, but she doesn't think she'll never speak to him again.

"I can't see myself never speaking to him again. There's emotion there. I think it's possible to change," the singer tells Glamour magazine.

"It's embarrassing that I fell in love with that person.

"He was my first big love and the more in love we became, the more dangerous we became for one another."

METRO WORLD NEWS





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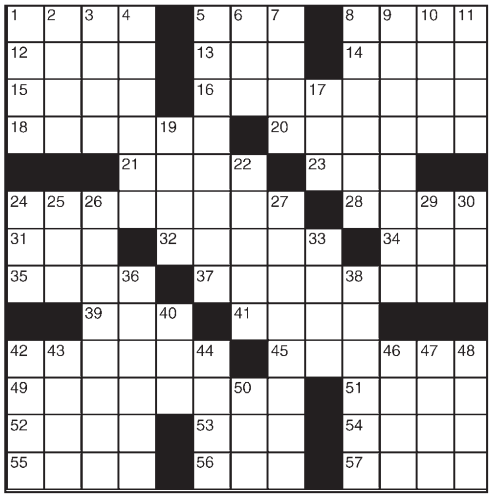
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Admiral

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Today 40% Showers 5°/ 1°
Tuesday 40% Rain or snow showers 4° / -10°
Wednesday 80% 5-10cm of snow 3° / -10°
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Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

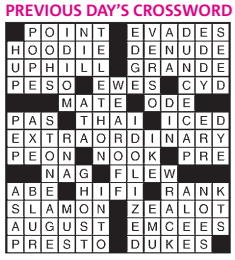
ACROSS

1 One of the Three B's
5 Express
8 Pond gunk
12 Franc replacement
13 Rhyming tribute
14 Poi base
15 Cupid's alias
16 Kale cousin
18 "The O'Reilly —"
20 Penetrable
21 Historic times
23 Hair-styling aid
24 Assembled in order, as pages
28 Puerto —
31 Literary collection
32 E G B D F, on a staff
34 Promptly
35 Pocket-protector contents
37 Reason for a fat lip?
39 Roman 201
41 Laugh-a-minute
42 Big scissors
45 Killed a bill
49 Tumble like a house of cards
51 Therefore
52 Reed instrument
53 Always, in 13-Across
54 Read quickly
55 Youngsters
56 Method
57 Gets some rays

DOWN

1 — Wellington
2 Emanation
3 Gator's kin
4 Inn
5 Of a Greek philosopher
6 Big bother
7 Kennel cry
8 Ogling one
9 Yuletide pastime
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Rolling stone's lack
17 Journal
19 Exam format
22 Man of La Mancha
24 Ballplayer's hat
25 Single
26 Galahad's dad
27 UPS parcel, e.g.
29 Miler Sebastian
30 Possess
33 — gin fizz
36 Weighing devices
38 Swear (to)
40 A Gershwin
42 Edinburgh resident
43 Vagrant
44 Jet forth
46 Killer whale
47 New York cardinal
48 Dresses in
50 Mediterranean, e.g.

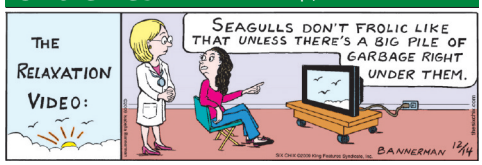
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	1	5	9	3	7	8	4	6
6	9	7	8	5	4	3	1	2
4	8	3	1	2	6	9	5	7
5	2	4	3	7	9	1	6	8
9	6	1	5	4	8	7	2	3
7	3	8	6	1	2	5	9	4
8	7	9	4	6	1	2	3	5
3	4	2	7	9	5	6	8	1
1	5	6	2	8	3	4	7	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Chicken Satay Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 cup (50 ml) smooth peanut butter
1/3 cup (75 ml) coconut milk
2 tbsp (25 ml) diluted chicken stock
1 lemon, zest finely grated
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red chili pepper, deseeded and finely chopped
12 oz (350 g) skinless chicken breast fillets, cut into thin strips
1 tbsp (15 ml) five-spice powder
1 red pepper, deseeded and sliced
2 carrots, peeled and cut into julienne strips
6 oz (175 g) button mushrooms, sliced
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh coriander

METHOD:

1. In small bowl, whisk together peanut butter, coconut milk, stock and lemon zest until blended, then set aside.
2. Heat oil in wok or large frying pan over high heat. Add garlic and chili pepper and stir-fry 30 seconds to release flavours.
3. Add chicken and five-spice powder and stir-fry 3–4 minutes until chicken has coloured all over. Add red pepper, carrots and mushrooms and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until slightly softened.
4. Pour peanut butter mixture into wok and stir-fry 2–3 minutes until chicken is cooked through and tender. Remove from heat, stir in chopped coriander and serve immediately.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A financial opportunity of some kind is certainly worth pursuing but it may not be quite as wonderful as someone is trying to make you believe.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
The Sun's aspect to Uranus today will bring about some surprising behavior among a group of people you thought were ultra conservative.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Chores and duties may be tiresome but you can't just forget about them, so you might as well tackle them in a more positive frame of mind.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Don't make too many plans for the next 24 hours because the approaching new moon will play havoc with your timetable.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Squabbles of one kind or another are likely today but for the most part they will be good-humored.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Chances are you'll have a lot of fun today but don't overdo it or you may regret it tomorrow.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There is no point getting angry about something you would usually dismiss as not worth the effort.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You may be a bit too domineering for some people's tastes today, so don't be surprised if you get a few negative comments.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
If you can't get what you want today you will certainly get it tomorrow or the day after that.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will be hugely enthusiastic today but watch out you don't get carried away and do something silly.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will lose patience with someone today and it's about time. They have been leading you on for quite a while.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Generosity comes naturally to you but you need to recognize that giving too much away is not a good thing, either for yourself or for other people.

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This day in history

1812: The French invasion of Russia comes to an end as the remnants of the Grande Armée are expelled from Russia.
1819: Alabama becomes the 22nd U.S. state.
1903: The Wright Brothers make their first attempt to fly with the Wright Flyer at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.
1955: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Laos, Portugal, Romania and Spain join the United Nations.
2003: President George W. Bush announces the capture of Saddam Hussein.

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